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Spe 545

Software Evaluation Outline

Overview of kurzweil Software: [**http://www.kurzweiledu.com**](http://www.kurzweiledu.com)

For the last three years the Iowa Assistive Technology Text Reader Project has examined the impact of the use of text reader software on student achievement in an ongoing attempt to find effective interventions to close the achievement gap between students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers.

For example, in a general education classroom where some students need reading support the teacher can have those students go to kurzweil and have them read the assignment on kurzweil. For those students the text would be scanned on the computer and the program can either highlight the words to help with fluency while for other students, they can have kerzweil read to them with the attachment of headphones.

Kurzweil is a research based learning system, and has ability to individualize the academic curriculum individualized to each student. Kurzweil reaches across the L/D spectrum. It has the ability to support slower readers; it has the ability to teach students who have severe reading deficiencies. Kurzweil also can taylor to students who have sensory issues. Kurzweil has the control to adapt to language speed to the tone of the voice.

The kurzweil Software for the individual student includes the following sections:

**Read out-aloud**-stories can be scanned onto the kurzweil and the computer will read the text to the student.

**Read**-student can read alone and have the kurzweil prompt fluency.

**Question and answer**-kurzweil has the ability to answer comprehension questions.

Students with physical or cognitive challenges can also utilize curriculum that is customized for them.

Features include.

**Options for text**- size, back round color, recorded sounds

**On screen interactive work sheets**

**Scanning options**

**Read out-loud options**

**Reading, writing**

Kurzweil offers a universally designed criteria offering multiple options for expression, control and

Engagement.

Kurzweil software includes teaching materials such as.

\*Assessment guide and tools

\*Leveled books

\*Teaching plans

\*User/ Reference guide

The website offers a short, free demonstration of its software for the classic and guided reading version only. Free demo discs are available to teachers.

Similar software

http://www.intellitools.com/default.aspxe

<http://www.metrotlc.com/>

http://www.sopriswest.com/